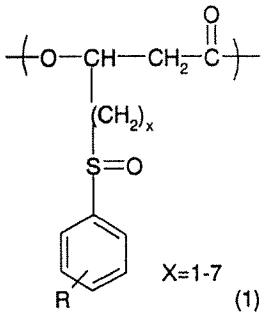
(b) In the Claims:

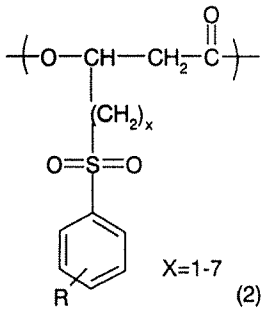
Please cancel claims 18-36, without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. A detailed listing of the claims is provided below which replaces all earlier listings.

1. (Previously Presented) A polyhydroxyalkanoate copolymer comprising at least, per polymer molecule, one kind of unit selected from the group consisting of chemical formulae (1) and (2):



(1)

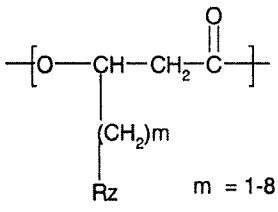
(wherein R is any one selected from the group consisting of H, halogen, CN, NO_2, COOR', SO_2R'' (R' is any one selected from the group consisting of H, Na, K, CH_3 and C_2H_5; R'' is any one selected from the group consisting of OH, ONa, OK, halogen, OCH_3 and OC_2H_5), CH_3, C_2H_5, C_3H_7, $(CH_3)_2$-CH and $(CH_3)_3$-C, and when more than one unit exist, R of each unit can represent any one of the substituents described above independently; and x is an integer selected from 1 to 7 and can differ for each unit)



(2)

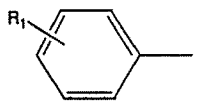
(wherein R is any one selected from the group consisting of H, halogen, CN, NO_2, COO R', SO_2R'' (R' is any one selected from the group consisting of H, Na, K, CH_3 and C_2H_5; R'' is any one selected from the group consisting of OH, ONa, OK, halogen, OCH_3 and OC_2H_5), CH_3, C_2H_5, C_3H_7, $(CH_3)_2$-CH and $(CH_3)_3$-C, and when more than one unit exist, R of each unit can represent any one of the substituents described above independently; and x is an integer selected from 1 to 7 and can differ for unit)

and at least one unit selected from the group consisting of chemical formulae (3) to (6):



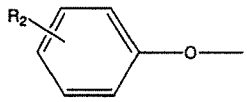
(3)

(wherein m is an integer selected from the range shown in the same chemical formula; wherein Rz in chemical formula (3) is any one residue selected from the group consisting of chemical formulae (8), (9), (10), (11), (12), (13), (14) and (15):



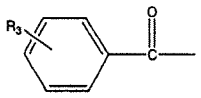
(8)

(wherein R_1 is any one selected from the group consisting of H, halogen, CN, NO_2, COOR' except the substituent introduced into the para- position of the phenyl group (R' is any one selected from the group consisting of H, Na and K), CH_3, C_2H_5, C_3H_7, CF_3, C_2F_5 and C_3F_7, and when more than one unit exist, R_1 of each unit can represent any one of the substituents described above independently)



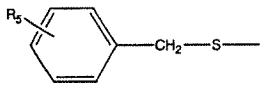
(9)

(wherein R_2 is any one selected from the group consisting of H, halogen, CN, NO_2, CH_3, C_2H_5, C_3H_7, SCH_3, CF_3, C_2F_5 and C_3F_7, and when more than one unit exist, R_1 of each unit can represent any one of the substituents described above independently)



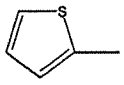
(10)

(wherein R_3 is any one selected from the group consisting of H, halogen, CN, NO_2, CH_3, C_2H_5, C_3H_7, CF_3, C_2F_5 and C_3F_7, and when more than one unit exist, R_3 of each unit can represent any one of the substituents described above independently)

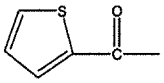


(11)

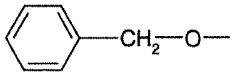
(wherein R_5 is any one selected from the group consisting of H, halogen, CN, NO_2, COOR', SO_2R'' (R' is any one selected from the group consisting of H, Na, K, CH_3 and C_2H_5; R'' is any one selected from the group consisting of OH, ONa, OK, halogen, OCH_3 and OC_2H_5), CH_3, C_2H_5, C_3H_7, $(CH_3)_2$-CH and $(CH_3)_3$-C, and when more than one unit exist, R_5 of each unit can represent any one of the substituents described above independently)



(12)

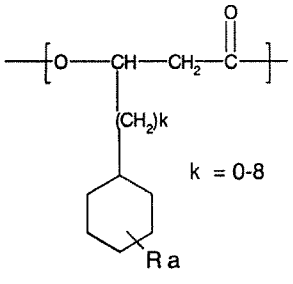


(14)



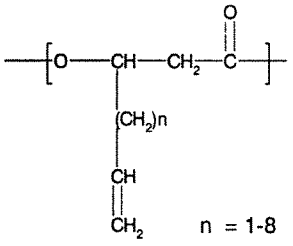
(15)

and when more than one unit exist, m and Rz of each unit can independently represent any one of the integers and the substituents described above, respectively)



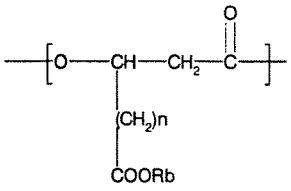
(4)

(wherein R_a is any one selected from the group consisting of H, CN, NO_2, halogen, CH_3, C_2H_5, C_3H_7, CF_3, C_2F_5 and C_3F_7; k is an integer selected from the range shown in the same chemical formula; and when more than one unit exist, k and R_a of each unit can independently represent any one of the integers and the substituents described above, respectively)



(5)

(wherein n is an integer selected from the range shown in the same chemical formula, and when more than one unit exist, n of each unit can represent any one of the integers described above independently)

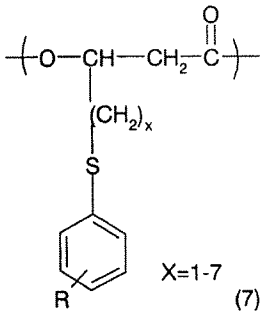


(6)

(wherein n is an integer selected from the range shown in the same chemical formula; R_b is any one selected from the group consisting of H, Na and K; and

when more than one unit exist, n and R_b of each unit can independently represent any one of the integers and the substituents described above, respectively).

2. (Original) The polyhydroxyalkanoate copolymer according to claim 1, further comprising, per polymer molecule, at least one unit selected from the group consisting of 3-hydroxy-(substituted phenylsulfanyl)alkanoic acid units having chemical formula (7):



(7)

(wherein R is any one selected from the group consisting of H, halogen, CN, NO_2, COO R', SO_2R'' (R' is any one selected from the group consisting of H, Na, K, CH_3 and C_2H_5; R'' is any one selected from the group consisting of OH, ONa, OK, halogen, OCH_3 and OC_2H_5), CH_3, C_2H_5, C_3H_7, $(CH_3)_2$-CH and $(CH_3)_3$-C, and when more than one unit exist, R of each unit can represent any one of the substituents described above independently; and x is an integer selected from 1 to 7 and can differ for unit).

3. (Cancelled).

4. (Original) The polyhydroxyalkanoate copolymer according to claim 1, which has a number average molecular weight of 1,000 to 1,000,000.

5. - 36. (Cancelled).